

2014-15

Annual Report



**Cyber Forensic
Investigative Unit
.... Pg. 19**

Tulare County
Sheriff's Department

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Letter from the Sheriff

The Sheriff's Office took some large steps during FY 2014-15 to expand our outreach to Tulare County residents and visitors. Much of that effort is coordinated by our new Employee / Public Relations Unit (EPRU). The unit has enhanced our presence in social media, including the quality and timeliness of our Facebook page. Media relations with local radio, television, and newspaper journalists also has been enhanced to assure you receive the most up-to-date news about the agency.

A key role of the EPRU is to inform the hundreds of men and women who wear a badge or serve in a civilian capacity about

Sheriff policies in order to serve the community better and keep morale high among our dedicated staff.

We are also interested in getting feedback from the community on how we are doing in providing for your public safety. Our community-based deputy (CBO) has provided such feedback for years. Typically, our regular patrol deputies visit communities in response to criminal incidents or as a result to some other request made to 911 dispatchers. But the mission of CBOs is different. Our CBOs visit communities to network with school officials, students, business owners, church leaders, and residents to listen to their concerns and suggestions about public safety. These special deputies also suggest ways to avoid being a victim of crime.

In May, the Sheriff's Office established SPOT (Sheriff's Public Outreach Team) to boost community feedback even further. The advisory group is composed of more than a dozen community leaders from diverse backgrounds who live in various parts of the County. The group was formed to share concerns and ideas to improve public safety and the operation of the Sheriff's Office. Early on, the subject of traffic stops came up during a SPOT roundtable discussion. One person on the team asked the Sheriff why drivers have to keep their hands on the steering wheel when they get pulled over by police. To law enforcement, it's a question of safety but to citizens it can be a puzzler. The discussion led to a public service announcement and video stressing the safety aspects of the practice.

Another new outreach effort is our Deputy Buzzbee anti-bullying program for children. An anonymous Sheriff's Explorer dresses up in a bee/deputy costume and encourages kids to "Bee nice, Bee safe, and Bee honest." So far, the friendly figure has brought his message, and lots of smiles, to thousands of children at schools and special events across the County.



Mike Boudreaux

Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission Statement

The mission of the Tulare County Sheriff's Department is to improve the quality of life through professional services and community partnerships.

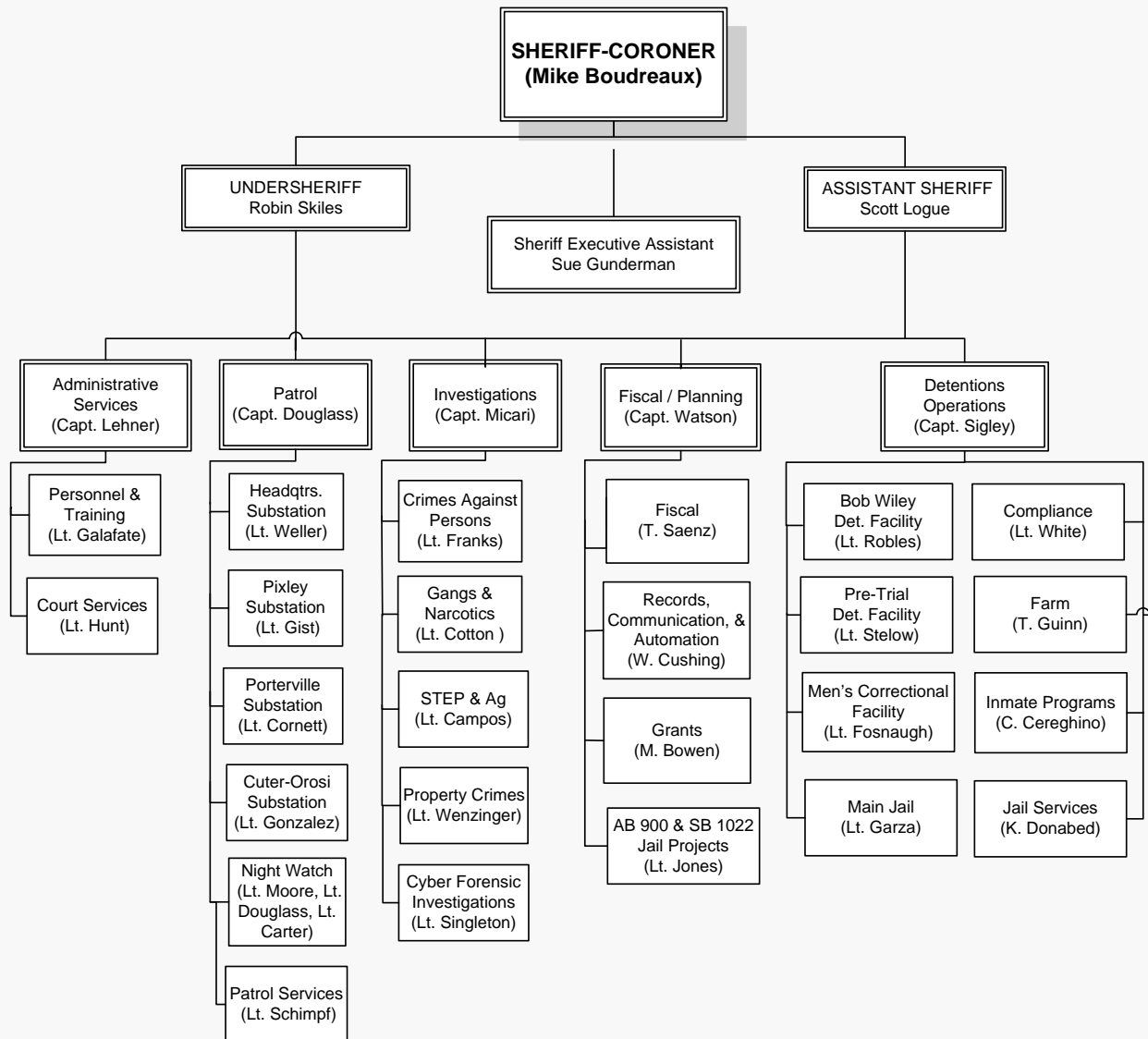
Vision Statement

The vision of the Tulare County Sheriff's Department is to provide quality service to the community and be recognized as the regional leader among law enforcement agencies by utilizing the latest in policing technologies, maintaining professional employees, and demonstrating innovation and operational flexibility.

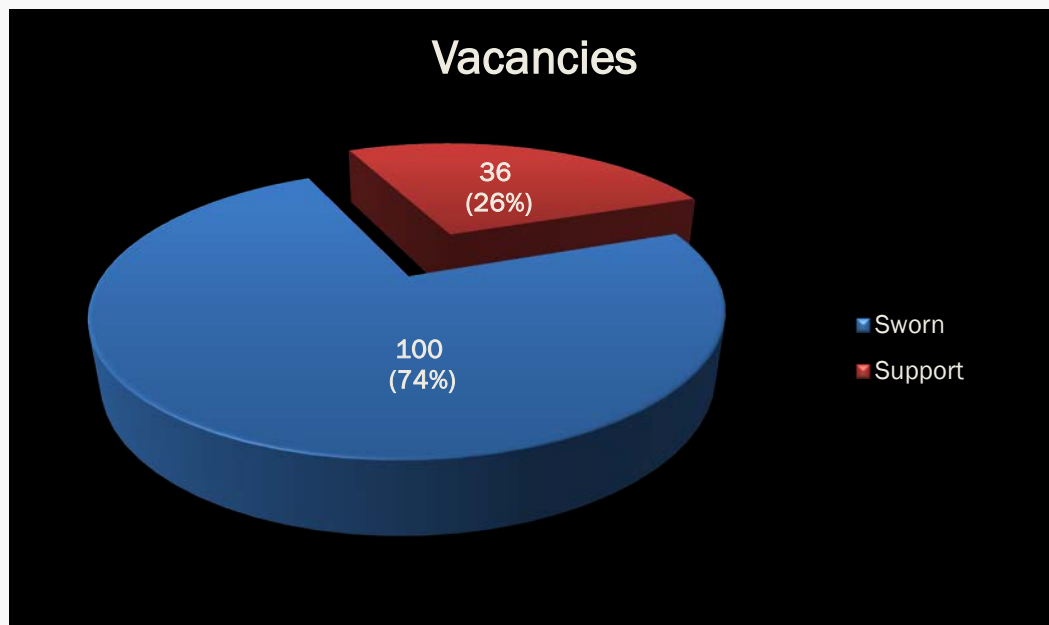
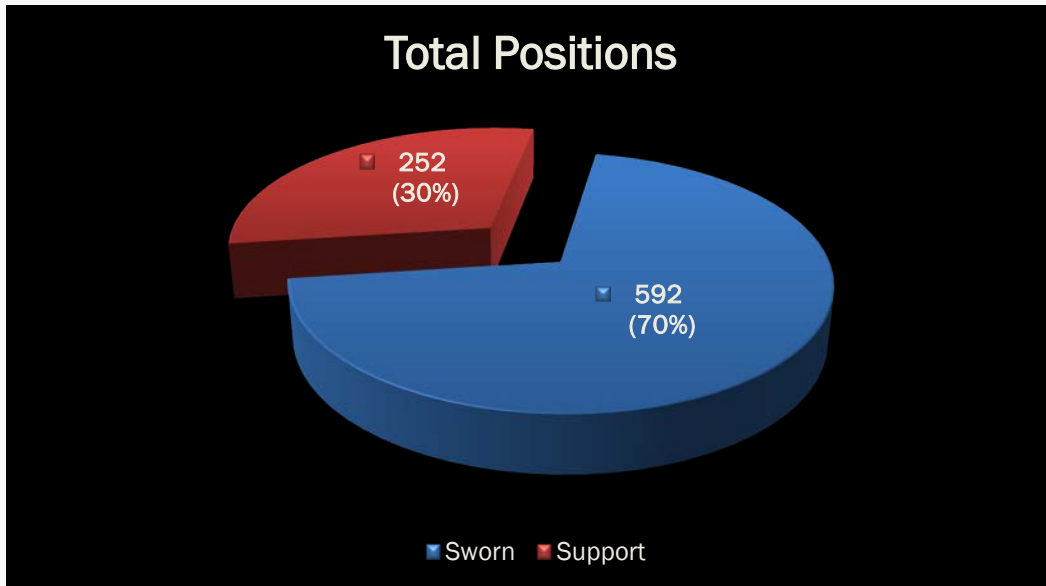
Core Values

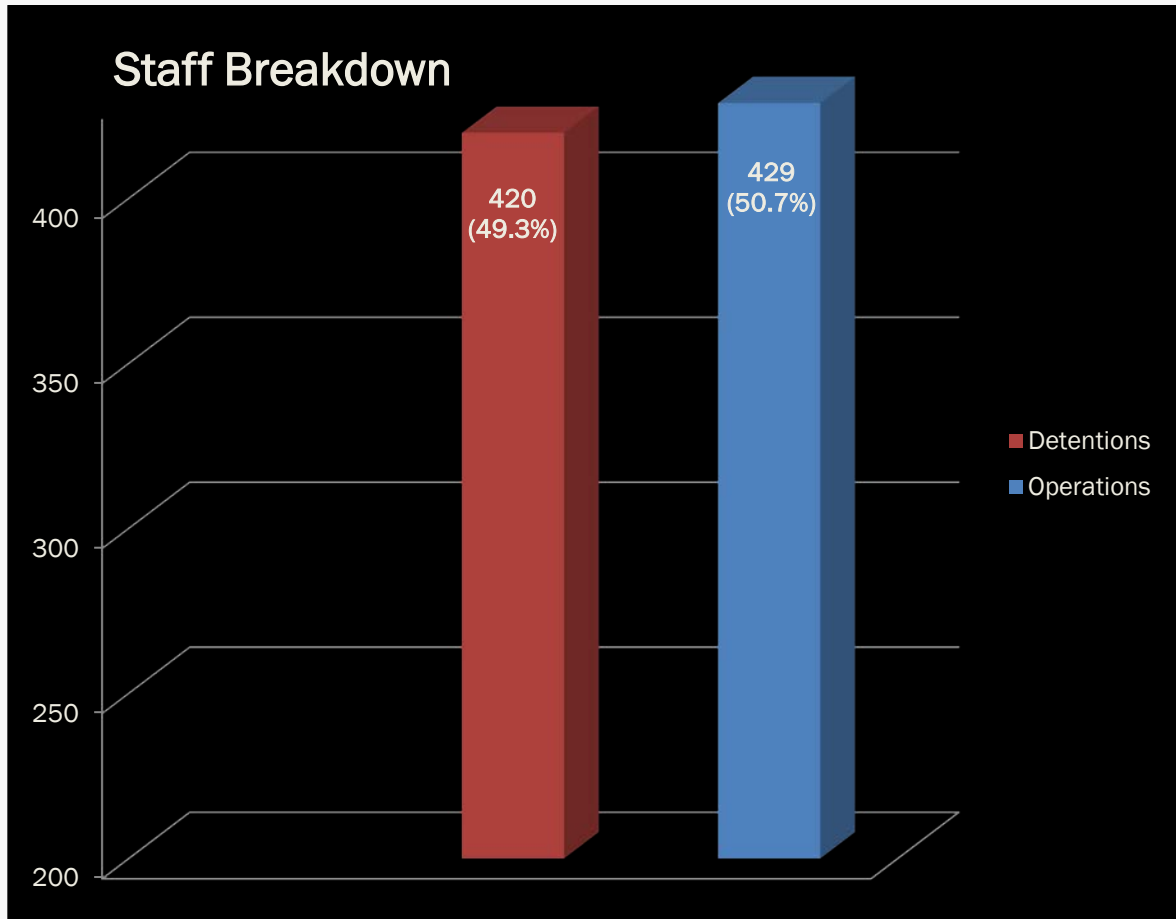
- **Integrity:** We are committed to uphold our position of trust by maintaining the highest ethical standards as set forth in the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics.
- **Community Safety:** We are committed to public safety through community partnerships, preparedness, crime prevention strategies and steadfast enforcement of violations of the law.
- **Customer Service:** We are committed to prompt, professional, and courteous service, unbiased and effective in our response to community concerns.
- **Quality:** We are committed to the highest standards of excellence through recruitment, training, teamwork, leadership, innovation and accountability.
- **Organization:** We value our members and have confidence in their individual initiative and ability to solve problems. We believe open, honest, and sincere communication is critical to a healthy work environment. We take pride and receive satisfaction from doing our very best. We recognize the importance of each team member, and do our utmost to encourage and assist one another to develop as individuals and professionals. We acknowledge teamwork as the key to attaining our goals.
- **Families:** We rely upon the support of our families and friends as we serve in an ever-changing and challenging world. The values we hold dear at home we also strive to share with the community: caring, honesty, fairness, stability, and friendship.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



STAFF





Administrative Services



Making the Grade: Job candidates must pass a battery of tests, interviews, and a background check before getting a job at the Sheriff's Office.

The Administrative Services division performs critical support functions that keep the Sheriff's Investigative, Patrol, and Detention divisions running smoothly.

The division commander is Captain Cheri Lehner. The division is composed of Personnel and Training; Court Services; and Patrol Services.

Here are individual unit descriptions and highlights of activities during FY 2014-15:

- **Court Services:** The unit ensures the safety of judges, attorneys, witnesses, defendants, jurors, and the general public at locations for the Tulare County Superior Court system. Court Services performs its duties under a state contract, which pays the salaries of unit staff. The County's largest courthouse (more than a dozen court-rooms) is located in the Civic Center complex in Visalia. Superior Court satellite locations are in Porterville, Dinuba, and the Adult Pre-Trial Detention Facility at Sequoia Field. The Department also provides security for the court system's Juvenile Justice Court north of Visalia and for Family Support Services in Visalia. During FY 2014-15, Court Services conducted 864,182 security screenings with metal detectors at these courts. The unit also escorted thousands of inmates to County courtrooms for hearings, trials, and legal motions.
- **Civil:** The Civil unit serves a variety of court documents on a fee basis for the general public – including bank levies, civil warrants, eviction notices, and summons and complaints. Unit staff interacts with a diverse population of people, such as business owners, landlords, attorneys, debtors, court personnel, and others. The unit processed 9,421 legal documents during FY 2014-15. The Civil unit charges fees for its services. The fees cover the unit's operating expenses. Excess income goes to purchasing replacement vehicles and computerized equipment for the Department. A portion also goes for general operating expenses of the Department.
- **Personnel & Training:** This unit coordinates hiring, training, promotions, and provides equipment for Sheriff's staff members. The unit works closely with Human Resources & Development division of County government to post open positions and comply with other personnel regulations of the County. This fiscal year there were job fairs in Tulare, Kings, Fresno and Kern counties attended for recruitment. Special visits were made to the Police Academies in Tulare, Kings, Fresno and Kern counties for recruitment. And special recruitment events were conducted for military veterans, and students enrolled in criminal justice studies at schools in the Tulare, Kings, Fresno and Kern counties. On social media, more than 7,000 people showed an interest in employment with the Sheriff's Office.

During the 2014-15 fiscal year, Personnel & Training processed 1,765 applications for employment with the Sheriff's Department. That included 1,145 applications for Deputy Sheriffs, Correctional Deputies, and Detention Services Officers; and 512 applications for civilian positions, which includes Extra Help (temporary positions). There were 108 people applied unpaid positions. These included civilian volunteers and reserve deputies.

Processed applications did not include applicants that did not meet the hiring requirements listed on the application and job flyer. Due to the sensitive nature of law enforcement, a background check was performed on each applicant, including volunteers, who join the Sheriff's Office staff. The agency hired and promoted a total of 128 applicants for paid positions, volunteers and reserve officers.

The unit also coordinated workshops, and other training for Sheriff's staff during the year. This included regular firearms instruction to 597 sworn officers at the Sheriff's range in Tulare to maintain state proficiency standards for firearms usage. Much of the rest of the training was performed so that agency personnel meet or continued state training standards for peace officers (POST) and standards training and for corrections (STC) – a total of 3,904 training sessions

between the two systems. These training sessions were completed at the agency and also at specialized training centers. There was a total of 21,331 hours of formal training provided to sworn staff. Staff covered under POST mandates are required 24 hours

of training every 2 years. Staff covered under STC mandates are required to receive 24 hours of training each year.



Shaping Up: Lt. Jim Franks monitors a recruit during an agility test sponsored by Personnel and Training for Sheriff's job candidates.

Other law enforcement agencies also receive training through the Sheriff's Office. It varied from specialized firearms (patrol rifle) to search-and-rescue techniques.

Personnel & Training tracks Workers Compensation claims, medical leave, and injuries (not work-related) of Sheriff's employees. Working with Risk Management and the employee, every effort is made to return the employee back to work using modified duty transitioning back to full duty.

There were some additions to specialized training and equipment during the fiscal year. The department received and began using a state of the art Force Option Simulator. This is being used to prepare staff for critical situations that may or may not require a use of force which requires a split second decision. Also the primary service sidearm (pistol) began a replacement of 10% a year. There is a savings with the old sidearm being sold back to the company reducing the replacement cost by approximately 45%. The shotguns were also a special project with the platform being refurbished to maintain serviceability. The patrol units were issued patrol rifles.

- **Internal Affairs:** This subunit of Personnel & Training conducts investigations of possible allegations of misconduct by Sheriff's deputies and civilian staff. The unit handled 58 Internal Affairs investigations during the FY 2014-15. The Department investigated additional incidents referred to as Administrative Reviews during the year. Administrative Reviews are generally for less substantial matters than Internal Affairs investigations. An example of an Administrative Review would be looking into a minor traffic accident involving a department employee.
- **Patrol Services:** This diverse unit contains key specialty sub-units to assist with investigations, cooperation with other law enforcement agencies, administrative tasks, and public relations of the Sheriff's Office.
 - **Aviation Unit:** The 2014-15 fiscal year brought significant improvements to the Sheriff's Air Support Unit (ASU). In January 2015, the Sheriff One aircraft had reached 2,000 hours of accumulated flight time, necessitating the replacement of the engine. Also, in January, we hired a full-time (non-sworn) pilot to compliment the full-time deputy assigned as the crew's tactical flight officer. In April, the new "augmented reality mapping system" was installed. This system overlays street names and addresses on the live video, allowing better coordination with ground units response to crimes in progress. The new engine and mapping system were grant funded. In May 2015, a second light sport aircraft was ordered for the ASU. Delivery is expected by May 2016. During this FY 2014-15, Sheriff One flew 885 hours. The unit assisted in 61 felony arrests, 13 misdemeanor arrests, and responded to 23 searches for missing persons.
 - **Boat Patrol:** During FY 2014-15, this unit, based out of the Cutler-Orosi Substation, patrolled the Kings River along the northern border of Tulare County. The unit gets busy between Memorial Day and Labor Day – when snowmelt from the Sierra-Nevada Mountains brings residents and visitors alike out in large numbers to swim,

fish, pilot an assortment of watercraft and otherwise enjoy the river. The River Patrol unit enforces local and state laws for use of public waterways. The unit also comes to the aid of people in danger of drowning or in other distress. The Dive Team also participates in holiday details on the Kern River. The unit gets assistance from the Sheriff's Dive Team during heavy-use periods, such as holidays.

- **Dive Team:** The Sheriff's Dive Team is made up of trained deputies who are certified as scuba divers and swift-water rescue technicians. Team members enter the County's lakes, canals, and rivers to recover evidence in crime cases; rescue drowning people; and recover bodies. The team often operates in waters with zero- or near-zero visibility and swift currents. The divers also encounter frigid water temperatures during winter and early spring. The unit often works hand in hand with the Sheriff's search-and-rescue unit on swift-water rescues and body recoveries.
- **Search and Rescue:** The Sheriff's Office has a dedicated group of trained deputies and volunteers that form its Search & Rescue Unit (SAR). During the FY 2014-15, SAR responded to 28 incidents. With each incident, the team provided effective, efficient use of resources to safeguard human life and hasten the recovery of lost, injured, or stranded individuals. SAR team members are trained to perform dangerous and complicated technical rescues in vertical and alpine mountain environments and are proficient during any season or in any environment. Tulare County is home to both the fertile San Joaquin Valley and the vast Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. The elevation changes dramatically from near sea level in the valley to approximately 14,505 feet at the summit of Mount Whitney, the tallest peak in the contiguous United States. The Sheriff's SAR unit covers a vast area, encompassing 1.2 million acres within the Giant Sequoia National Monument, Sequoia National Forest, Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks, the Golden Trout Wilderness and the Jennie Lakes Wilderness. SAR works closely with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and will respond to assist other jurisdictions upon OES request.
- **Volunteers:** The Department is truly fortunate to have the free services from hundreds of public-spirited citizens. The main volunteer programs that serve the Department include:
 - **Chaplains:** Local ministers volunteer their services for the Department. Some chaplains ride along with patrol deputies to provide comfort for crime victims. Chaplains also are on hand to provide counsel to Sheriff's staff at times of stress. Additionally, two chaplains from Good News Jail & Prison Ministry are paid by the Inmate Trust Fund and other sources to provide counseling and Bible study to

inmates. These chaplains also assist with training and supervision of the volunteer chaplains who work in the jails. By the way, all volunteers in the jails must attend an annual training session which covers safety and other special considerations of working with inmates.

- **Drug and alcohol counselors:** Volunteers from Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous work with inmates at the jails who have drug or alcohol problems. The Narcotics Anonymous volunteers also assist with the Department Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program, a successful program for inmates with a history of substance abuse.
- **Sequoia Mountain Rescue:** This group of volunteers specializes in difficult rescues in alpine environments. They work closely with the Department's search-and-rescue unit on cases where hikers, fishermen, and others need assistance in rough terrain of the Sierra-Nevada Mountains.
- **Sheriff's Posse:** The Posse formed in 1940 as a way for local farmers and ranchers to assist the Sheriff's Department. That tradition continues with local volunteers. The Posse represents the Sheriff's Department, typically on horseback, at parades and other public events. But the unit also saddles up to help out on search-and-rescue missions by the Department's SAR unit.
- **Volunteers in Patrol:** Dozens of people are active in the Sheriff's Volunteers in Patrol (VIP) program. The dedicated VIPs pick up and deliver mail, reports and other items between Sheriff's installations around the County. They relay patrol cars to substations, or drive them for service or repair to the County motor pool or car dealers. They provide traffic control at crime scenes and support functions with special enforcement operations. They assist with Department search-and-rescue operations, perform clerical duties at headquarters and substations; and provide essential support for the Department in other ways.

Patrol



On the Beat: The Sheriff's resident deputies patrol the rugged mountainous terrain in the eastern portion of the county.

Patrol deputies are the face of the Sheriff's Department in the communities we serve throughout the County. The deputies patrol vast areas of valley, foothills, and mountainous areas of the County in the Department's white patrol sedans, sports utility vehicles, and pick-up trucks. The division commander is Captain Keith Douglass.

The department's patrol area is extensive -- roughly the size of the State of Connecticut. The average patrol beat is approximately 250 square miles. This rural landscape is home to around 145,000 people. Thousands more visit the area each year to spend time with relatives, enjoy the County's two national parks, national forests, and for business or employment.

The division's deputies offer around-the-clock coverage of this agricultural and mountainous terrain 365 days a year. They are based in four substations: (1) Visalia, based at Sheriff's headquarters; (2) Cutler-Orosi; (3) Porterville; and (4) Pixley.

The patrol division responds to all calls for service from the general public – everything from petty thefts to homicides. The division's deputies interview victims, witnesses, and alleged suspects; write crime reports; and, when necessary, take people in custody and transport them to jail. As appropriate, the deputies refer cases to one of the Department's investigative units for further investigation. The deputies also testify in court trials on their cases.

Here are individual unit descriptions and highlights of activities during FY 2014-15:

- **K-9 Unit:** The Tulare County Sheriff's Department K9 Unit was utilized 114 times for various reasons during FY 2014-15. These included 95 searches. The unit made 60 apprehensions or finds of drugs, explosive devices / guns, and individuals fleeing law enforcement. In addition to serving the Sheriff's deputies, the unit is available at no charge to other law enforcement agencies. The team showcases its expertise in 19 public presentations to school and civic groups during the fiscal year. The unit also competes against similar K9 units from around the state in various competitions. Each spring, the Sheriff's Department and the Visalia Police Department host the Sierra K-9 Trials, which draws law enforcement canine units from across the state and is the longest-running canine competition for law enforcement on the West Coast.



Best Buddies: Deputies develop a close rapport with the dogs in our K-9 unit.

- **Bomb Disposal Unit:** Explosive experts with the Sheriff's Office and the Visalia Police Department comprise the Tulare County Consolidated Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit. The unit safely handles and disposes of improvised explosive devices, commercial explosives, military ordinance, suspicious packages/letters, and bomb hoax devices. The unit's equipment includes heavily padded bomb suits, specialized bomb disposal tools, two bomb disposal robots, mobile x-ray equipment, two bomb trailers, and a truck. The

Bomb Unit is available to assist other local, state, and federal upon request. The unit also gives public presentations.

- **Employee Public Relations Unit:** The new Employee Public Relations (EPRU) group also is supervised by Patrol Services. In addition to media relations, the EPRU supervises the Sheriff's Deputy Buzzbee outreach program to younger students. The unit also informs the general public about Sheriff's Office operations and services at numerous events during the year.

➤ **Sheriff's Youth Programs:**

- **Explorers:** The Sheriff's Department also operates Explorer Post 355. The post is affiliated with Boy Scouts of America and provides career-related skill development for youth, ages 14 to 21 years old. In FY 2014-15, the Sheriff's Explorer post had approximately 60 members. Each substation has a subgroup of this membership. Deputies supervise each Explorer meeting and activities. The youth receive training

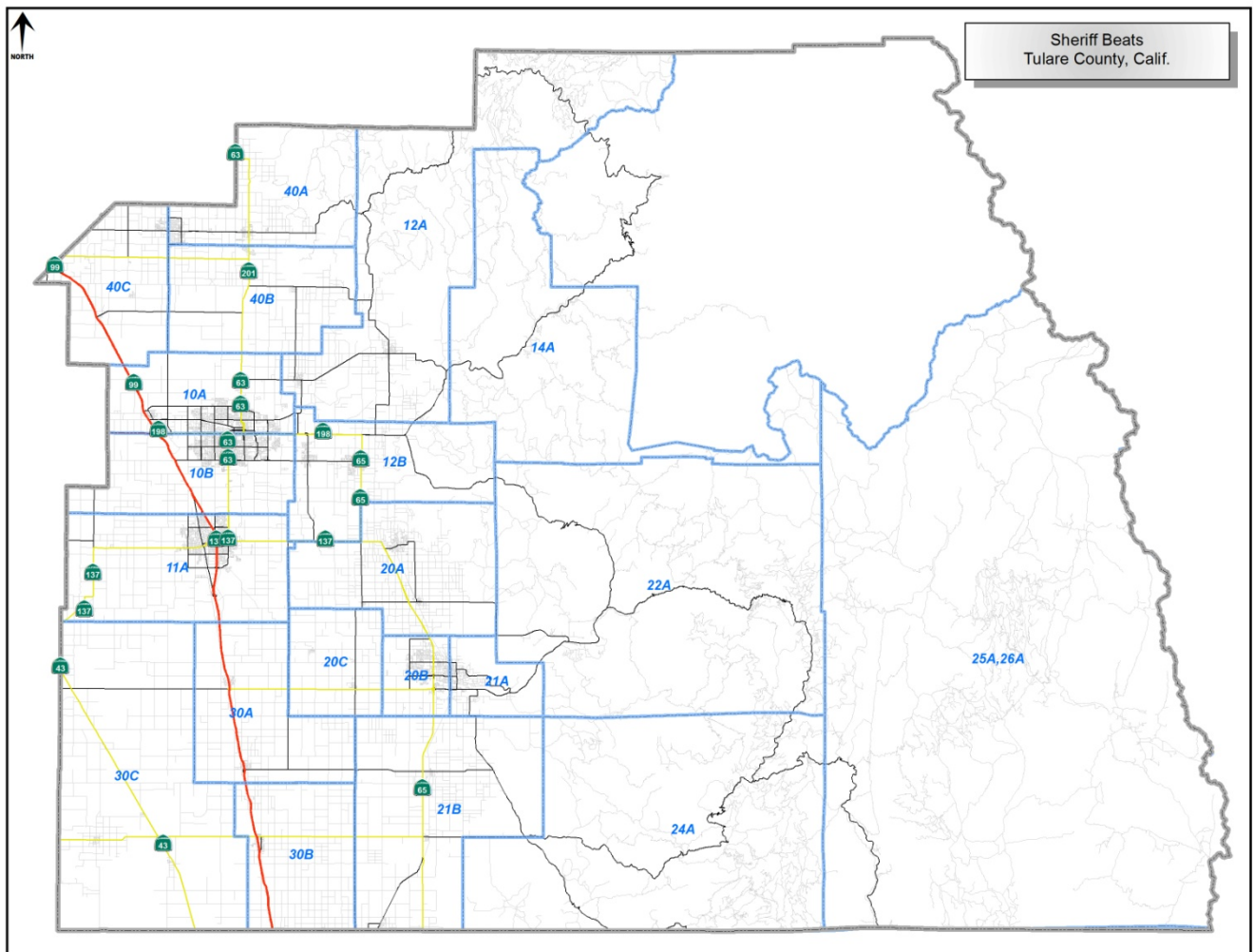
in law enforcement skills, such as report writing, police radio operation, and communications. Additionally, the Explorers are trained in simulated law enforcement scenarios – such as stopping vehicles containing people who have just committed a felony or dealing with medical emergencies. The post takes part in competitions with other posts, which measures law enforcement skills,

teamwork and individual skills. The Sheriff's post hosts an annual Explorer competition for California posts each spring. The Sheriff's Explorers serve as role models for other youth during anti-gang and other presentations made by the Sheriff's Office in classrooms across the County. Many deputies started off as Explorers. But even youth with other career aspirations have benefitted by the discipline, team and individual skill development learned as Explorers.



Award Winning: the Sheriff's Explorers program has won many head-to-head competitions with other Explorer troops around the state.

- **Sheriff's PAL program:** The Sheriff's PAL program works with low-income children ages 8 to 12 in rural areas of the County. The Sheriff's community-based deputies reach out to these children with fun activities and encourage them to achieve in the classroom and stay out of trouble. This fiscal year, the deputies took more than 100 such youth to Pismo Beach for a three-day camping experience; treated 25 youth for a day at the Visalia Rawhide Stadium to watch a baseball game; treated 100 youth for a day at the Tulare County Fair; hosted a new bicycle giveaway for 20 youth and hosted a Holiday Party for 200 children with music, dancing, games, food, and presents. PAL gave 12 Christmas Trees and presents to 12 families which were identified by members of the community and the schools. PAL also gave away 150 refurbished bicycles to low-income youth.



New unit uses high-tech tools to assist investigators in solving crimes



Digital Access: CFIU Detective Luis Trevino uses the computers in the unit's Mobile Crime Lab. The computers hook crime-scene investigators to major law enforcement databases to speed crime investigations.'

The Sheriff's new Cyber Forensic Investigations Unit (CFIU) uses a variety of specialized tools and techniques to collect critical physical evidence to assist detectives in solving crime. The main subunits of CFIU are the crime lab, fingerprint processing, and cyber-crime investigations.

The CFIU team consists of eight highly trained detectives, a fingerprint technician, crime systems specialist, and field evidence technicians under the supervision by a unit sergeant. The unit's main role is to collect physical evidence and assist in investigating the most high-profile and serious offenses and incidents within the County. These include officer-involved shootings,

homicides, sexual assaults, child molestations, kidnappings, assaults with deadly weapons, missing person cases, and property crimes with high-dollar losses.

The unit also assists local law enforcement jurisdictions that lack the CFIU's array of crime-solving tools and skilled personnel. Two of the unit's main high-tech assets arrived during FY 2014-15:

- **Mobile Crime Lab:** This \$200,000 vehicle measures almost 28 feet long, by 12 feet wide, by nearly 12 feet tall. It sits on a durable Ford F550, 5-ton chassis and weighs almost nine tons. Inside, the spacious work area is 18 feet long, with a 7-foot ceiling. There is ample counter and cabinet space for crime lab personnel to bag evidence and temporarily store it for further analysis back at the brick-and-mortar crime lab at Sequoia Field north of Visalia. Crime Lab staff can also perform simple tests on evidence inside the vehicle. Other features include a powerful, roof-mounted light to literally turn night into day at crime scenes for better processing by investigators. Onboard computers give investigators access to computer databases at the Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies for access to mug shots, fingerprint records, and other vital data to speed investigations. There also is an area where Sheriff's command staff can view evidence and direct detectives on how to proceed.

3-D Scanner: This tripod-mounted device (*photo at right*) performs 360-degree sweeps of crime scenes to create 3-dimensional maps accurate down to 2 millimeters. This allows detectives, District Attorney personnel and court juries to see crime scenes in amazing detail. The scanner replaces most of the photography done by detectives to recreate crime scenes, and does it more accurately and much faster.



CFIU staff also use high-tech devices, software, and specialized training to probe cell phones, computers, and computerized devices to investigate cybercrime. The unit works closely with the local Internet Crimes Against Children task force to track down offenders who prey on children using the Internet.

The CFIU also is planning a new permanent Crime Lab to be located next door to the Sheriff's coroner unit in Tulare.

Investigations



Clues: Solving a crime is often a painstaking task of putting together the pieces of a puzzle.

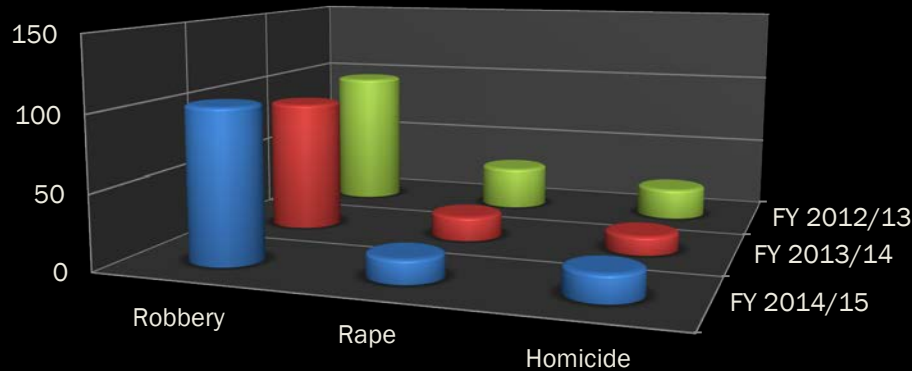
The Sheriff's Investigative Division investigates everything from illegal drug deals to cybercrime. The division commander is Capt. Larry Micari.

Here are individual unit descriptions and highlights of activities during FY 2014-15:

- **Crimes Against Persons:** The Sheriff's Crimes Against Persons bureau is made up of three separate units: Violent Crimes, Juvenile Crimes, and the Coroner's Unit.
 - **Violent Crimes:** This unit investigates homicides in the Sheriff's jurisdiction along with scores of other violent crimes against County residents and visitors, such as assault and rape. The unit carefully investigates suspects, witnesses, sifts

through evidence, and coordinates with prosecutors. Violent Crimes has a subunit with seasoned detectives devoted to solving “cold cases” that have eluded solution for years, or in some cases decades.

Crime Trends: Robberies, Rapes & Homicides



	Robbery	Rape	Homicide
FY 2014/15	103	16	18
FY 2013/14	90	17	13
FY 2012/13	96	30	22

- **Juvenile Crime:** Detectives in the Juvenile unit investigate cases, often grisly, involving suspected child abuse, including physical abuse and neglect, sexual abuse and exploitation, at-risk missing or runaway juveniles, and other cases involving children. During FY 2014-15, the unit investigated 14 cases of rape / unlawful sexual intercourse; 12 cases of physical abuse or neglect; three cases of child pornography; 66 cases of sexual abuse of children; 21 missing person cases, and other cases involving juveniles, including failure by registered sexual offenders to keep their living address current with law enforcement.
- **Coroner's Unit:** During FY 2014-15, a total of 962 cases were referred to the Coroner's division. Six hundred and twelve of these were determined not to be coroner's cases. The cause of death was determined to be the following for the 350 remaining cases: accidental (41); homicide (50); natural (118); stillborn (21); suicide (44); traffic accident (76); and pending determination (15). The Coroner's Unit role is to determine the mode and manner of all traumatic or unexpected

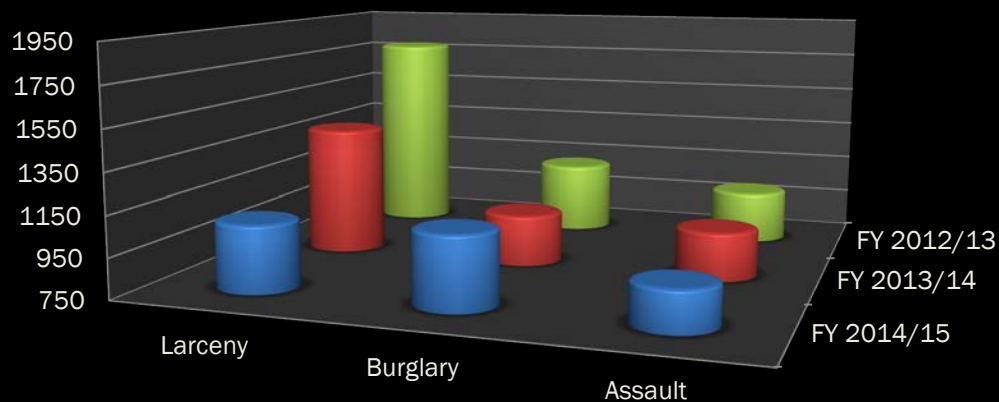
deaths throughout the County. This includes homicides, drowning victims, suicides, stillborn children, traffic accident victims, and “natural causes,” among other violent or suspicious reasons for death. Many cases are determined not to be Coroner’s cases due to the fact that a physician was aware of the deceased condition and determined it was fatal. Two physicians perform autopsies for the Coroner’s Office in cases where the cause of death is not apparent, or to collect evidence for deaths caused by a crime, such as a homicide. The unit also determines if suicide is the cause of death. With a heavy workload of cases, the full-time staff of the Coroner’s Office is assisted during the evening hours by Patrol deputies, who start the paperwork on deaths caused by standard traffic accidents and natural causes.

- **Gang Suppression:** During FY 2014-15, the Gang Unit arrested 441 suspects of crimes and confiscated 58 firearms. The unit conducted 520 gang operations / details involving people on probation, or parole; participated in 52 general search warrant operations; and responded to 200 requests for assistance from inside the Sheriff’s Department and from outside agencies.
- **Narcotics:** Tulare County has several characteristics that make it ideal for people trafficking in illegal drugs. The County’s vast amount of federal lands (often rugged mountainous terrain) is favored by large-scale cultivators of illegal marijuana. Tulare County’s centralized location in California makes it a good hub to distribute marijuana and a variety of other illegal drugs on the West Coast. Finally, widespread poverty in the County translates to a ready market for methamphetamine, a devastating drug with a relatively cheap street price. The Department battles the illegal drug trade with experienced investigators, collaborations with other law enforcement agencies, and a patchwork of local, state, and federal funds to finance enforcement operations.
 - ***Specialty investigative units in Narcotics:*** There are specialized units within the Sheriff’s Narcotics department which track down, arrest, and testify in cases involving methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, and other illegal drugs. These units collaborate with local police departments, federal anti-drug task forces, prosecutors, and other law enforcement professionals to bring drug cultivators and traffickers to justice. The Sheriff’s Narcotics Task Force (NTF) and the Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement Unit (CLEU) have focused on dismantling large-scale narcotics organizations.

During FY 2014-15, NTF and CLEU accounted for 93 search warrants, 62 “control” buys of narcotics, 50 felony arrests, three misdemeanor arrests, 455 pounds of processed marijuana, five clandestine drug labs, 67.5 lbs. of methamphetamine, 2.2 lbs. of heroin, 5.5 lbs. of cocaine, 21 weapons, and drug-related asset seizures of \$257,287.19. The unit also assisted other law enforcement agencies in eradication of 22,641 illegal marijuana plants.

- **Property / Agricultural Crimes:** Most of the bureau’s cases involve property crimes, such as thefts and larcenies (thefts where no victim is present at the scene). A special squad focuses exclusively on agricultural crime.

Crime Trends: Larcenies, Burglaries & Assaults



	Larceny	Burglary	Assault
FY 2014/15	1085	1113	951
FY 2013/14	1401	1010	993
FY 2012/13	1783	1112	1015

- **Property Crimes:** This unit investigates property crimes throughout the Sheriff’s jurisdiction. The most common investigations for these detectives are armed robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, burglary, elder abuse, embezzlement, fraud, fictitious checks, grand theft, and identity theft.
- **Agricultural Crimes:** Tulare County is one of the top agricultural counties in the United States. This investigative unit of the Sheriff’s department investigates

stolen farm chemicals, commodities, tractors and other farm equipment, vehicles, farm-related vandalism, and miscellaneous crime that occurs in the County's abundant and diverse agricultural industry (along with Fresno County, Tulare County regularly ranks among the top two agricultural counties in the United

Agriculture: Stolen Property & Recoveries		
ITEM	Loss Amount ¹	Recovery Amount ¹
Chemicals	\$137,845	\$0
Commodities	\$73,118	\$35,060
Farm Equipment	\$250,749	\$158,564
Fuel	\$14,619	\$783
Livestock	\$157,000	\$27,200
Metal	\$162,146	\$8,260
Tractors	\$317,500	\$224,675
Vehicles	\$188,550	\$178,000
Miscellaneous items	\$419,553	\$100,597
Vandalism	\$134,338	\$0
TOTALS	\$1,855,418	\$733,139 (39.5%)

¹Thefts committed in Tulare County or elsewhere with property recovered in the County.

States). The squad works closely with the Tulare County District Attorney's Office, which provides funding for the group through a state grant.

- **Property and Evidence Unit:** The Tulare County Sheriff's Office's Property and Evidence unit is primarily responsible for the receipt and storage of all evidence seized by members of the department. During FY 2014-15, the unit received 12,410 items of evidence – up 6.2% from five years ago. This unit is also responsible for

conducting federal traces of seized firearms and the proper disposal of evidence items. This unit also stores and distributes some department supplies.

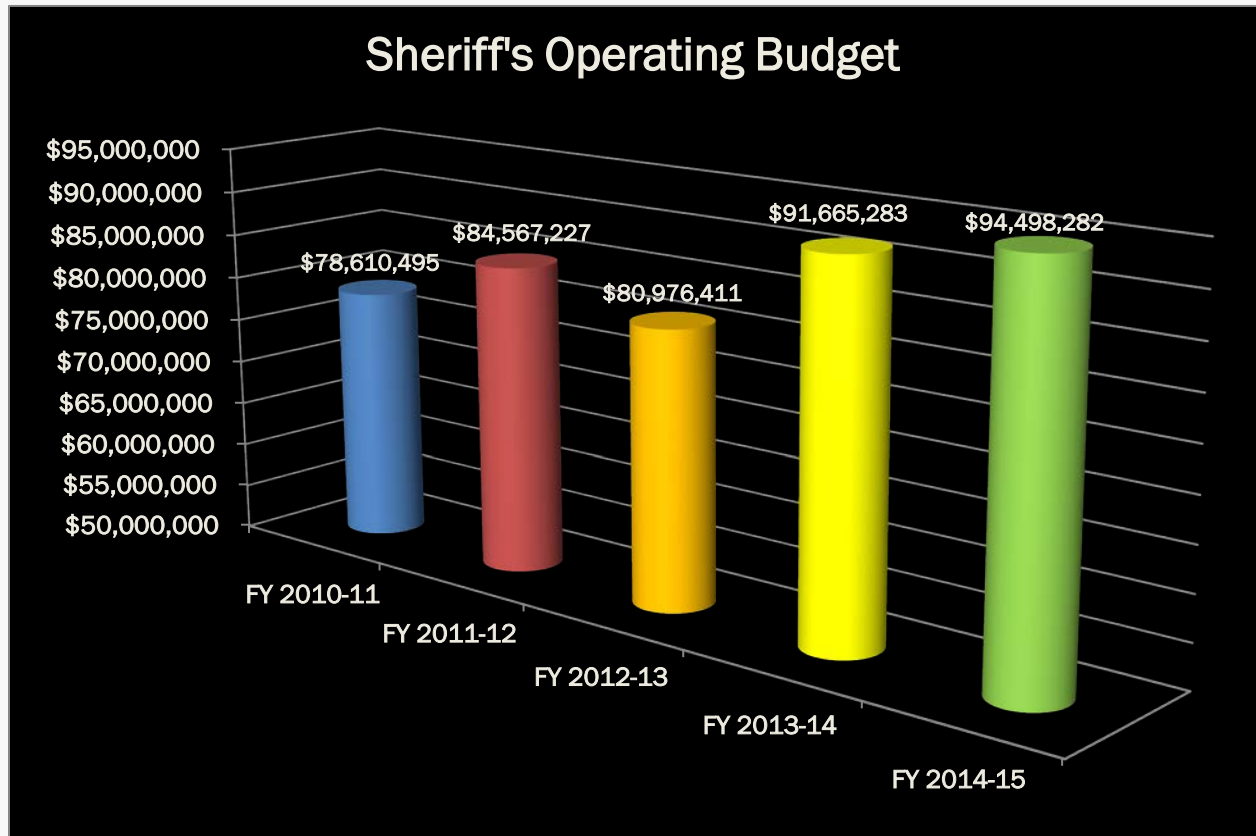
- **Cyber Forensic Investigations Unit:** See story on the unit on Pg. 19.
- **STEP:** The unit's name translates to Sheriff's Tactical Enforcement Personnel. It's the Sheriff's SWAT team. Much of the team's efforts involve eradication of illegal marijuana operations in valley and mountainous areas of the County.

During FY 2014-15, the STEP team removed 139,547 illegal marijuana plants from 165 grow sites in the County on the valley floor and in the foothills of the Sierra-Nevada Mountains. They also confiscated 2,766 pounds of processed marijuana; 109 weapons; arrested 169 people; and seized \$227,344 in cash and other assets at these locations. The unit provides training to other Sheriff's units and is often called upon to make presentations on its work to the general public.



Illegal Weed: The Sheriff's Office teams up with the County's Resource Management Agency to eradicate large marijuana grow sites.

Fiscal / Planning



The Fiscal / Planning Division contains several administrative units of the Sheriff's Office. That includes Automation (IT); the Business Office; Communications (Dispatch); Grants; Records; and jail projects. The Division commander is Capt. Mike Watson.

Here are details on the Division's units:

- **Business Office:** The Sheriff's Business Office handles the day-to-day fiscal responsibilities for the Department. That includes accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, fiscal control of contracts, grant accounting, inmate welfare trust accounting, and the agency's monthly financial statements.
- **Information Technology:** The Sheriff's IT Unit dedicated team of technology professionals responded to 10,000 requests for service during FY 2014-15. IT maintains more than a

thousand desktop and laptop workstations; mobile devices; mobile data terminals; and multiple servers. The team installs, troubleshoots and maintains an extensive amount of software and databases, including Criminal Justice systems, 911 Dispatch software and systems, SQL servers and basic office software. The unit also installs and maintains in-car camera systems, video surveillance systems, body worn cameras and mobile fingerprint identification systems. IT works closely with many different partners and vendors for specialized support of our mission. The closest partner is the County's Information and Communications Technology department. This partnership keeps our critical network, microwave, radio and server infrastructure running smoothly. The unit includes the County's 911 Coordinator. The Coordinator continually works to improve the Sheriff Office's ability to answer and respond to the public's 911 calls.

During FY 2014-15, IT implemented I-COP systems in all patrol vehicles and infrastructure built to allow remote uploading of all video to a centralized location. Multiple body cameras and video storage options were extensively evaluated. New CAD Dispatch servers and hardware were installed and implemented. New 911 servers and systems were purchased and implemented. A major upgrade of our CAD software was installed, trained on and implemented.



911: The dispatchers in the Sheriff's Communications Center make sure deputies are where needed.

- **Communications Center:** The Sheriff's emergency dispatchers comprise a communications nerve center for the Department. The dispatchers answered 254,958 calls during FY 2014-15. These included 211,913 from the Sheriff's patrol jurisdiction (rural Tulare County), and a total of 29,237 from small cities and a community college that contract with the Department for emergency dispatch services. The latter included 13,040 calls from Exeter, 11,408 from Farmersville, 11,551 from Woodlake, and 711 from the College of Sequoias.

The dispatchers swiftly forwarded calls regarding fires and requests for medical aid to County Fire and ambulance services, respectively. When a call involved a crime, a domestic disturbance, a heated dispute between neighbors, or another pressing matter, the Communications Center quickly dispatched a patrol deputy to the scene. However, many calls are for non-emergencies, including loud music, status of an inmate, and barking dogs. Dispatchers actually receive thousands of calls each year that are phantom, not the result of someone dialing the department. This typically happens when people sit on their cell phones tucked in a back pocket and the phone automatically dials "911."

- **Grant Unit:** The Sheriff's Office operates a variety of local, state, and federal grant programs. The agency's grants specialist is charged with seeking new grant funding and renewing existing grants. During 2014-15, the Department had more than \$60 million in active grants. The specialist works closely with Sheriff's management, the Department's fiscal staff, a variety of County departments, other law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and other entities to prepare proposals and ensure that grants comply with County contract requirements. Additionally, the specialist generates management reports, composes letters of support, provides photography, and performs other duties.
- **Jail construction projects:** The Sheriff's Department is working with County administrative and construction staff on major jail projects in Porterville and north of Visalia at Sequoia Field. The projects are being made possible by large grants from the Board of State and Community Corrections. The new jails, due to open within the next several years, will contain hundreds of new cells and classrooms for instruction designed to reduce recidivism.
- **Records Department:** The Sheriff's Records Department functions as a service center for requests from Department staff, other government agencies, and the general public. Records serves as a library for outstanding criminal warrants, criminal histories on inmates in the County jail system, and other Department documents. The unit has its own vocabulary. "Live scans" refer to electronic scanning of someone's fingerprints (often done for people applying for a job). "Serna motions" refer to an application for a hearing questioning service of a warrant. "CCW" refers to a permit to carry a concealed weapon.

Records Workload		
Service / Activity	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15
Phone Calls	34,210	25,923
Serna Motions	271	288
Subpoenas	396	421
New Concealed Weapon Permits	1,032	977
Renewals of Concealed Weapon Permits	1,309	1,253
"Live Scans"	4,271	4,850
Sex Offender Registrations*	263*	207
Administrative Tows	147	277
New Arrest Warrants	21,171	22,365
Served or Recalled Arrest Warrants	21,373	12,757
Front-counter Contacts	8,290	11,892
*Most sex offenders now register at Sheriff's Day Reporting Center.		

Detentions / Operations



Off to Court: A tunnel connects Main Jail in Visalia to Tulare County Superior Court across the street.

The Sheriff's Department operates four jails, inmate programs, a variety of alternatives-to-custody programs, and the Sheriff's Farm. The Department receives and processes people arrested for crimes by Sheriff's deputies, along with officers of the County's eight municipal police departments, the California Highway Patrol, and local law enforcement task forces. The County has four jails operated by the Department. That includes three jails at the County's Sequoia Field complex in rural northern Tulare County and a fourth jail adjacent to the Tulare County Superior Courthouse in Visalia.

The division commander is Captain Tom Sigley. Here are some more information on the jails and jail-related programs, along with activities from FY 2014-15:

- **Jail system:** The Department operates Main Jail in Visalia, the Bob Wiley Detention Facility, the Adult Pre-Trial Detention Facility, and the Men's Correctional Facility (MCF) at the County's Sequoia Field complex in rural northern Tulare County. The County Jail System has a capacity of 1,718 beds.

County Jail System



Teaching: A counselor works with inmates in the anti-drug program for female inmates.

CATEGORY	FY 2012-13	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15
Admissions	22,660	22,564	22,881
Avg. Daily Population ¹	1,644	1,765	1,601
Inmate meals	2,114,111	2,302,181	1,937,177
Inmate transports ²	33,338	35,224	33,409

Notes:

1. Jail System had a useable bed capacity of 1,718 in FY 2014-15.
2. Transport to court hearings and trials, hospitals, state and federal prisons, extraditions, and for other reasons.

Following are jail-related programs and activities, including developments during FY 2014-15:

- **Alternative sentencing programs:** The Sheriff's Department operates several alternative-to-incarceration programs – the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP), the Day Reporting Center (DRC), and Weekender (WE). The programs are open on a volunteer or court-ordered basis to non-violent inmates who meet the qualifications of each program. During FY 2014-15, offenders in these programs contributed 30,319 days of volunteer labor in lieu of jail time. DRC is designed for indigent inmates. Weekender participants are ordered to do so by the court. Weekender, by the way, was originally constructed for work projects on weekends only. Now, those projects can be any day of the week. For both DRC and Weekender, inmates perform lawn maintenance and general labor duties around Sheriff's facilities at Sequoia Field and the Department's substations. SWAP originated to allow inmates to continue to support their families by participating in County work projects at times that does not conflict with paid employment. The SWAP workers, like their DRC and Weekender counterparts, perform general labor duties on work assignments. But those assignments can be at any of 40 work sites at government agencies and non-profit organizations around the County. SWAP workers pay to participate in the program, and thus help the Sheriff's Department defray supervision costs. By law, DRC participants do not pay to take part in the program. Weekender participants pay to participate at rates determined by the court system.
- **Compliance:** The unit supervises compliance by the Detentions Division with federal, state, and local requirements for jails. The unit also handles transport of offenders to court appearances, medical facilities, other law enforcement jurisdictions, and for other purposes. During FY 2014-15, that amounted to 33,409 – a 5.2% decrease from the previous year, but slightly above the average for the past five years of 33,018.
- **Farm:** The Sheriff's Farm is a major reason the Department is able to keep tight controls on foodservice costs for inmates and correctional staff. The farm, located adjacent to the Department's Sequoia Field detentions complex, grows everything from garden vegetables to beef cattle. Food processors and non-profit organizations also donate commodities to the Department. However, the farm had some made hurdles due to California drought during FY 2014-15, when several wells went dry. Though the unit eventually got the wells replaced, hay, grain, and meat production dipped for the fiscal year. 2

Sheriff's Farm Production



Homegrown: The Sheriff's Farm produces much of the food for the jail kitchen.

CROP	FY 2012-13	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15
Hay	11,248 bales	15,172 bales	7,500 bales
Grain	54 tons	36 tons	24 tons
Beef	52,432 lbs.	54,611 lbs.	46,136 lbs.
Pork	60,713 lbs.	81,545 lbs.	84,217 lbs.
Vegetables	68,348 lbs.	30,682 lbs.	50,000 lbs.

- **Inmate Programs:** The Sheriff's Department Inmate Programs unit served 4,327 inmates with drug abuse, parenting, counseling, education, vocational, and other instructional and behavior modification training during FY 2013-15. The unit operates a variety of programs geared to nurture educational, vocational and emotional development

of inmates. Inmates choose whether to participate in the programs. The idea is to prepare inmates to adjust better when they re-enter regular life after incarceration and to, hopefully, not re-offend and return to jail. In large part, these programs are funded by the inmates themselves – through profits on commissary purchases, telephone fees, and other assessments. The unit also receives grants to operate special programs. An example is the Department's long-standing Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program. It's a residential program and inmates must commit to stay in the program for a minimum of five months. RSAT is designed to develop the inmate's cognitive, behavioral, social, vocational, and other skills to solve substance abuse and other problems. RSAT is no longer just for male offenders. Recently, the Department began an RSAT program for female inmates.

In other classes and workshops, inmates can earn a high school equivalency diploma; work on anger management; learn to live without drugs; become a certified fork-lift operator; or become better parents. Sisterhood of Grace, a local non-profit organization, offers group and individual counseling for women inmates at Bob Wiley Detention Facility. The volunteer teaching staff concentrates on building skills to help these women overcome personal obstacles to lower their chances of re-offending and returning to jail. The Sisterhood works with each participating inmates who are nearing release from jail. The organization works with an extensive network of public agencies and non-profit organizations to line up needed services to increase the inmate's chance of successfully reintegrating into society.

- **Sheriff's Emergency Response Team (SERT):** The creation of SERT was in response to the ever increasing level of violence demonstrated by Inmates. The jails comprise one of the most challenging and potentially violent for the Sheriff's Office.

In addition to increasing violence, we are faced with a more difficult classification of Inmate that requires a greater level of awareness. SERT is designed to maintain a safe atmosphere for inmates and correctional deputies. The team is made up of 20 deputies. Supervision is provided by two team leaders, two sergeants and a lieutenant. All SERT members are highly disciplined and experienced deputies who have the ability to perform under stressful situations. This unit is required to conduct monthly exercises which consist of weaponless defense, cell extractions and less than lethal weapons training. Team members are expected to respond to disturbances 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The ultimate goal of the SERT team is to control emergencies directly while minimizing the risk of injuries to staff, civilians and inmates.

During the FY 2014-15, SERT was called out on three occasions. Two involved cell searches and yielded several jail-made shanks (knives) and a handcuff key. During the

fiscal year, SERT participated in the “Red Sol” enforcement action against Norteno gang members along with numerous other Sheriff’s deputies and officers from neighboring police agencies. This operation resulted in service of 60 search warrants and 82 arrests..

- **Jail Industries:** The Jail Industries unit makes plaques, trophies, awards, and other engraved items for government agencies and non-profit organizations. The program teaches inmates useable skill sets, such as graphic design, layout, and production. In the process, these offenders build post-custody job readiness. The unit often works hand-in-



New Look: The Sheriff's Jail Industries updated signage on Sheriff's facilities during FY 2014-15.

hand with the Sheriff’s building trades program, where inmates cultivate marketable skills in painting and construction with improvement projects at government facilities. Added to the Jail Industries product line for FY 2014-15 were canvas prints of photos. The unit’s largest undertaking of the year was updating the logos and lettering on Sheriff’s buildings and vehicles. Finally, in a testament of the unit’s track record for quality, our Jail Industries Program was contacted by the San Luis Obispo County

Sheriff’s Department for advice in beginning its own jail industries program.

- **Jail Services:** This unit has a very large, diverse role in the County Jail System. The unit is responsible for preparing and distributing meals to inmates and corrections staff; keeping sheets and other jail laundry clean; and performing other housekeeping functions that are essential to jail operations running smoothly. The activities for the unit amount to some impressive annual statistics. In food service alone, Jail Services produced 1,937,177 meals for inmates during FY 2014-15, along with 180,675 meals for correctional staff. Much of the food is supplied by the Sheriff’s Farm, reducing the average meal cost to just \$1.36.

Contact Us

ADMINISTRATION

Anonymous Tips on Crimes (24 hours a day)

- 559-725-4194
- tcsso@tipnow.com

Administrative Center

- 559-636-4625
- 2404 W. Burrel Ave., Visalia, CA 93291
- Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays (closed holidays)

Business Office

- 559-636-4628
- 2404 W. Burrel Ave., Visalia, CA 93291

Communications Center (24 hours a day)

- Emergency: 911
- Non-emergency: 559-733-6218

Media Inquiries

- 559-636-4695
- 800-808-0488 (toll-free, 24 hours)
- SheriffPIO@co.tulare.ca.us

Personnel & Training (employment)

- 559-735-1825
- 800-757-9907 (toll-free)
- 5959 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277

Records Division

- 559-636-4724
- 2404 W. Burrel Ave., Visalia, CA 92391

CIVIL SERVICES and COURTS

Civil Services

- 559-636-5090
- 221 S. Mooney Blvd., Room 102, Visalia, CA 93291

Court Services

- 559-636-5088
- 221 S. Mooney Blvd., Room 102, Visalia, CA 93291

DETENTIONS

Adult Pre-Trial Facility

- 559-735-1750
- 36650 Road 112, Visalia, CA 93291

Bob Wiley Detention Center

- 559-735-1700
- 36712 Road 112, Visalia, CA 93291

Main Jail

- 559-636-4655
- 2404 W. Burrel Ave., Visalia, CA 93291

Men's Correctional Facility (MCF)

- 559-735-1650
- 36008 Road 112, Visalia, CA 93291

SUBSTATIONS

Cutler-Orosi

- 559-591-5810
- 40765 Rd. 128, Cutler Ca. 93615

Headquarters

- 559-636-4625
- 2404 W. Burrel Ave., Visalia, CA 93291

Pixley

- 559-685-2666
- 161 N. Pine St., Pixley, CA 93256

Porterville

- 559-782-9650
- 379 N. 3rd St., Porterville, CA 93257

WEB

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- <http://www.tularecounty.ca.gov/Sheriff>

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- www.tularesheriff.info/news.php

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